

Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination

YOU CAN HELP!!!

What is an Illicit Discharge?

An illicit discharge is defined as: “any discharge into a municipal storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater”. Pollutants that fall into this broad category are:

- Car wash wastewater
- Gas and motor oil
- Grass clippings and leaves
- Household cleansers
- Paints
- Fertilizers & Pesticides
- Pet waste
- Solvents
- Weed killer
- Grease from restaurants
- Chlorinated Pool Water
- Concrete wash water
- Sediment
- Septic Tank effluent



Sometimes these pollutants are carried through the storm drainage system by rain, wind, or improper disposal into the Rock River. This results in serious health and water quality problems. In addition, wildlife and the overall appearance of rivers and creeks are adversely affected by illicit discharges.



Remember.....

- What we do on land affects the quality of water we drink and use in so many ways.
- Many small sources of pollution add up to cause large water quality problems.
- Natural things such as soil, leaves, grass clippings and pet waste can cause water pollution.
- Waste dumped into storm sewers ultimately ends up in the Rock River without treatment.
- Automobiles and other vehicles cause water pollution as well as air pollution.

Everyone can make a difference!

Seven Easy Ways You Can Keep Illicit Discharges Out of Our Rivers and Creeks

There are simple steps we can take to help solve some of our creeks and rivers problems. It is your choice, the residents and business owners who call Rockford home, to clean up and help keep it clean!

1. **Used oil, antifreeze and batteries** can be recycled. Clean up spills immediately, kitty litter or saw dust will absorb the spills. Be sure to sweep afterwards.



2. Wash your car on the grass so **water, detergent and dirt** will be filtered by the soil. Another option is a go to a commercial car wash where dirty water is sent to the wastewater treatment plant.

3. Empty bottles of **household cleaners, pesticides and weed killer** should be disposed of according to label directions.



4. **Grass clippings and leaves** in the street should be swept up. If left in the street they are being washed into or are plugging the storm sewer. This can lead to street flooding, less capacity to transport storm water and can cause algae blooms in creeks and rivers.

5. Many household products, including **paint, paint thinners and solvents** can be taken to the hazardous waste dump off site at the Rock River Water Reclamation District or recycled. Paint brushes with water based paint can be rinsed in the sink. Small amounts of left over paint can be allowed to dry or mixed with kitty litter to dry. Once completely dry it can be placed in the trash.



6. When walking your pet use a bag or scooper to clean up the **pet waste**. In order to keep animal waste from contaminating our community, anyone who walks a pet should properly dispose of the waste by picking it up, wrapping it and either placing it in the trash or flushing it UNWRAPPED! Do not dump waste into storm inlets.



7. Apply **fertilizer and pesticides** according to label instructions. Applying too much is not beneficial and the excess will run off. In addition, applying just before or during a rain will cause it to run off contaminating our creeks and rivers.

Reporting of Illegal Dumping or Suspicious Discharges

To control illegal dumping participation from the public and city staff is important. Residents who observe illegal dumping or observe pollutants within waterways or storm sewers should contact the City of Rockford's Department of Public Works at 779-348-7175 or place a service request at the City's website.



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Engineering Division
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For More Information about the City of Rockford's Storm Water Programs go to:
<http://www.rockfordil.gov/public-works/engineering-cip/stormwater.aspx>

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